



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 897

LCO No. 3047



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING A PATIENT'S DIRECTIONS REGARDING LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-576 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2023*):

3 (a) Any person eighteen years of age or older may appoint a health
4 care representative by executing a document in accordance with section
5 19a-575a or section 19a-577, signed and dated by such person in the
6 presence of two adult witnesses who shall also sign the document. The
7 person appointed as representative shall not act as witness to the
8 execution of such document or sign such document.

9 (b) For persons who reside in facilities operated or licensed by the
10 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, at least one
11 witness shall be an individual who is not affiliated with the facility and
12 at least one witness shall be a physician, advanced practice registered
13 nurse or licensed clinical psychologist with specialized training in
14 treating mental illness.

15 (c) For persons who reside in facilities operated or licensed by the
16 Department of Developmental Services, at least one witness shall be an
17 individual who is not affiliated with the facility and at least one witness
18 shall be a physician, advanced practice registered nurse or licensed
19 clinical psychologist with specialized training in developmental
20 disabilities.

21 (d) An operator, administrator or employee of a hospital, residential
22 care home, rest home with nursing supervision or chronic and
23 convalescent nursing home may not be appointed as a health care
24 representative by any person who, at the time of the appointment, is a
25 patient or a resident of, or has applied for admission to, one of the
26 foregoing facilities. An administrator or employee of a government
27 agency that is financially responsible for a person's medical care may
28 not be appointed as a health care representative for such person. This
29 restriction shall not apply if such operator, administrator or employee is
30 related to the principal by blood, marriage or adoption.

31 (e) A physician or advanced practice registered nurse shall not act as
32 both health care representative for a principal and attending physician
33 or advanced practice registered nurse for the principal.

34 (f) A health care representative appointed under this section may not
35 override or otherwise revise the directions of a person eighteen years of
36 age or older to withhold or withdraw life support systems that (1) are
37 set forth in a document executed pursuant to section 19a-575 or 19a-
38 575a, (2) are set forth in a living will document executed by such person
39 that was furnished to a physician or other health care provider and
40 made part of such person's medical record pursuant to section 19a-578,
41 or (3) such person orally communicated to a physician or health care
42 provider or such person's health care representative, legal guardian,
43 conservator, next-of-kin or designee under section 1-56r and were made
44 part of such person's medical record pursuant to section 19a-578,
45 provided such person did not revoke such directions.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2023	19a-576

Statement of Purpose:

To ensure that a patient's directions regarding the withholding or withdrawal of life support systems are followed.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]